

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 are amended to merely clarify the recited subject matter. No new matter is added. A new title is also submitted that is more descriptive of the claimed invention. Additionally, by the concurrently filed Drawing Change Authorization Request, the "Prior Art" legend is added to Figure 8, thereby removing the outstanding drawing objection.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada et al. (JP 11003682; hereafter "Yamada") in view of Yasuhara et al. (JP 11162329; hereafter "Yasuhara"). Applicants traverse the rejection because the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

For example, the cited prior art fails to teach or suggest a circular fluorescent lamp or a lighting fixture including such a circular fluorescent lamp that includes "an insulator, arranged to between at least one pair of the conductive wires, limiting the movement of the conductive wires, adhered on the sealing portion at least one of the stems. . ."

Although the Office Action recognized that Yamada does not teach the insulator being arranged between the conductive wires, the Office Action referred to Yasuhara as disclosing an insulating adhesive 8 arranged between the conductive wires so that the lead wires are not contacted or short-circuited by rotation of a base.

However, Yasuhara merely discloses that a silicon adhesive (8) is adhered between inner wall of base (7) and outer surface of a bulb end portion (1) in order to rotate to a certain amount of angle around the center axis the tube. However, there is no teaching that the silicon adhesive should be used in such a way to provide insulation between the conductive wires.

Therefore, the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed lamp and light fixture including the claimed insulator. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 1-4 and 9 is traversed and those claims are allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yasuhara and Cannon (U.S. 4,878,854). Applicants traverse the rejection because the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

As explained above, the combined teachings of Yamada and Yasuhara fail to teach or suggest the claimed lamp including the claimed insulator as recited in dependent claims 5 and

8 by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Cannon fails to remedy this deficiency of the other references because Cannon is merely directed to the use of an insulating block.

Therefore, the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed lamp and light fixture including the claimed insulator. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 5 and 8 is traversed and those claims are allowable.

The Office Action rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamada in view of Yasuhara, Cannon and Noma et al. (U.S. 4,281,238; hereafter "Noma"). Applicants traverse the rejection because the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest all the features recited in the rejected claims.

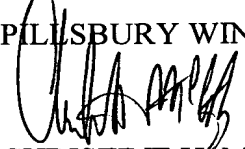
As explained above, the combined teachings of Yamada, Yasuhara and Cannon fail to teach or suggest the claimed lamp including the claimed insulator as recited in dependent claims 6 and 7 by virtue of their dependency on claim 1. Noma fails to remedy this deficiency of the other references because Noma is merely directed to the use and effectiveness of silicon rubber of specific harnesses.

Therefore, the combined teachings of the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed lamp and light fixture including the claimed insulator. Accordingly, the rejection of claims 6 and 7 is traversed and those claims are allowable.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP


CHRISTINE H. MCCARTHY
Reg. No. 41,844
Tel. No. (703) 905-2143
Fax No. (703) 905-2500

Date: July 2, 2003
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102
(703) 905-2000